

AMANAI -- 10/828,551
Client/Matter: 061069-0309367

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-9 are amended, and claims 11-14 are new added. No new matter is added. The specification is amended to include a cross reference to the Japanese patent application upon which priority is based for the present application. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2 and 7-9. In response, claims 2 and 7-9 are rewritten in independent form. Newly added claims 11-14 depend from claims 2 and 7-9 respectively and are in condition for allowance based upon their dependency. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims 2, 7-9 and 11-14 are presently in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 and 4-6 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,841,590 to Sato. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Sato discloses an aberration-controllable optical system. Sato's optical system contains a master lens group and a converter lens group. The master lens group includes a first sub lens group L1 having a positive refractive power, a second sub lens group L2 having a negative refractive power, and a third sub lens group L3 having a positive refractive power in this order from the object side of the system. The first sub lens group L1 has two lenses. The second sub lens group L2 has one lens. The third sub lens group L3 has three lenses. The converter lens group includes a positive lens element LP and a negative lens element LN. An aperture stop S is positioned between the second sub lens group L2 and the third sub lens group L3.

By contrast, amended claim 1 is directed to an image forming optical system consisting essentially of, in order from an object side: a first lens, an aperture stop, a second lens, a third lens and a fourth lens. The first lens is a positive meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward an object side. The second lens is a meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward an image side. The third lens is a positive meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward the image side. The fourth lens is a negative lens having at least one aspherical surface.

Sato does not disclose the subject matter of claim 1. As amended, claim 1 excludes the possibility of the imaging optical system having more than four lenses. Sato discloses an optical system having five lens groups with at least eight separate lenses. Furthermore, Sato does not disclose a meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward an image side.

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Finally, Sato does not disclose the claimed fourth lens having at least one aspherical surface. The negative lens element LN of Sato does not disclose at least one aspherical surface. Accordingly, applicant's respectfully submits that Sato does not anticipate the subject matter of amended claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over Sato. Claims 4, 5 and 6 depend from claim 1 and are allowable over Sato for at least the same reasons. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based upon Sato are respectfully requested.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Sato in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,868,173 to Miles et al. ("Miles"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Miles discloses an objective lens assembly for a projection television. The objective lens assembly includes five lens elements A, B, C, D and E. Like Sato, Miles does not disclose the claimed four lens arrangement. As such, applicant respectfully submits that Miles does not disclose, teach or suggest the deficiencies of Sato in connection with claim 1. Accordingly, the combination of Sato and Miles does not render obvious the subject matter of claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over the combination of Sato and Miles. Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and is allowable over Sato and Miles for at least the same reasons. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based upon the combination of Sato and Miles are respectfully requested.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Sato in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,195,210 to Tochigi. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action correctly notes that Sato does not disclose an electronic apparatus equipped with an image forming optical system. The Office Action relies on Tochigi for allegedly teaching that it is known in the art to include image forming optical system in an electronic apparatus. While this may be true, the combination of Tochigi and Sato does not render obvious the subject matter of claim 10 because Tochigi does not disclose, teach or suggest any of the deficiencies of Sato in connection with claim 1. Accordingly, the combination of Sato and Tochigi does not render obvious the subject matter of claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over the combination of Sato and Tochigi. Claim 10 depends from claim 1 and is allowable over Sato and Tochigi for at least the same reasons. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based upon the combination of Sato and Tochigi are respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims define subject matter, which is patentable over the prior art of record. Should any issues require further resolution, the

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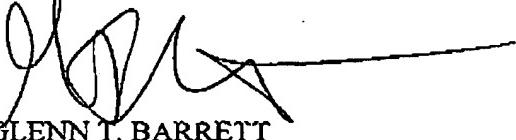
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Examiner is requested to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney to discuss and resolve the issues. Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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